

Message Text

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51

ACTION SS-25

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FM USMISSION NATO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 379

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

S E C R E T USNATO 1120

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:PFOR, MARR, GR TALKS:

SUBJECT: U.S./GREEK PREPARING FOR ROUND TWO

DEPARTMENT PLEASE PASS SECDEF AND USNMR SHAPE

REF: A) ATHENS 1456

- B) USNATO 523
- C) USNATO 1044
- D) USNATO 790
- E) USNATO 999
- F) USNATO 1035

1. MISSION WOULD HOPE THAT U.S. CAN MAINTAIN THE MID-MARCH DATE FOR THE NEXT ROUND OF U.S./GREEK TALKS AS TENTATIVELY AGREED IN THE FIRST ROUND. MISSION HAS MISGIVINGS ABOUT THE APRIL 7 DATE RECOMMENDED IN REF A, SINCE SUCH A DELAY IN THE TALKS COULD HAVE ADVERSE CONSEQUENCES HERE.

2. TURKEY, QUITE APART FROM ITS REACTION TO CUTOFF IN U.S. MILITARY AID, HAS BECOME INCREASINGLY VOCAL ABOUT THE PROBLEMS FOR TURKISH SECURITY POSED BY GREEK WITHDRAWAL FROM NATO INTEGRATED COMMAND STRUCTURE. TURKISH PERMREP AT JANUARY 30 (REF B) AND FEBRUARY 25 (REF C) DPC MEETINGS ADVOCATED EXTREMELY RESTRICTIVE POLICY REGARDING INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS IN GREECE, CLAIMING GREECE WAS DETERMINED TO CARVE OUT
SECRET

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PRIVILEGED POSITION WITHIN THE ALLIANCE. HE REPORTED GROWING ANXIETY IN ANKARA ON DELAY OF OPENING OF NEGOTIATIONS ON GREEK RELATIONSHIP WITH NATO, WHICH, COUPLED WITH DENIAL OF AEGEAN SEA AND AIR SPACE TO ALLIES, EXPOSING TURKEY TO ATTACK

FROM THE NORTH, MEANT THAT TURKISH SECURITY IS BEING DETERMINED BY ATHENS. TURKISH PERMREP SENT LUNS A LETTER ON FEBRUARY 10 (REF D) NOTING THAT NATO'S NEGOTIATIONS WITH GREECE WOULD BE TIME CONSUMING AND POINTING OUT ASPECTS OF THE PRESENT SITUATIONS WHICH MAY SERIOUSLY AFFECT THE COMMON DEFENSE OF THE SOUTH-EASTERN FLANK, INCLUDING TURKEY, AND WHICH REQUIRE EARLY REMEDIAL MEASURES. TURKEY HAS CITED AS ITS REASON FOR WITHDRAWING FROM WINTEX THAT THIS EXERCISE IS MUCH LESS SIGNIFICANT FOR TURKEY BECAUSE OF THE WITHDRAWAL OF HELLENIC ARMED FORCES FROM NATO INTEGRATED MILITARY STRUCTURE (REFS E AND F).

3. THE U.S. HAS SOUGHT AND - WITH SUPPORT FROM LUNS AND ALLIES - SUCCEEDED IN KEEPING GREEK/NATO TALKS IN TANDEM WITH GREEK/U.S. TALKS, AND THUS AVOIDING CONFRONTING GREECE PREMATURELY WITH CHOICES IT WAS NOT YET PREPARED TO MAKE. MISSION BELIEVES THAT MAINTAINING THE PACE OF GREEK/U.S. TALKS, I.E., HOLDING TO THE MID-MARCH DATE, WILL BE HELPFUL IN MAINTAINING THIS POLICY, IN THE FACE OF INCREASING IMPATIENCE ON THE PART OF TURKEY (AND, EVENTUALLY, ON THE PART OF SOME OF THE OTHER ALLIES). MISSION ACCEPTS ATHENS POINT ABOUT THE NEED FOR CAREFUL PREPARATION FOR GREEK/U.S. NEGOTIATIONS REPEAT NEGOTIATIONS. NEVERTHELESS MISSION BELIEVES MID-MARCH TALKS REPEAT TALKS COULD BE PRESENTED IN THE NATURE OF FOLLOW-ON SECOND ROUND PRELIMINARY TALKS, RATHER THAN AS NEGOTIATIONS, AND COULD BE USEFUL IN PREPARING FOR ACTUAL NEGOTIATIONS.
MC AULIFFE

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED ABOVE ADDRESSEES.

SECRET

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